(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, upto January, 1995 there was shortage of exchange capacity, but with the expansion of C-DOT 400 lines exchange to 1000 lines, all out of turn telephone connections have been provided except one, which is a very long distance case. Rent and guarantee formalities in this case have not yet been completed by the party.

(c) Yes, Sir.

New Scheme for Radio Officers Examination

7022. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wireless Planning and Co-ordination (W.P.C.) Wing of the Ministry of Communications has prepared the new scheme for the Radio Officers exams and has changed/ revised the present syallabus and eligibility criteria due to introduction of Global Maritime Distress Safety System (G.M.D.S.S.);

(b) if so, what are the details of the new scheme and the eligibility criteria and the list of equipments for practical exams for Radio Officer; and

(c) by when this new scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) The following categories of certificates and licences to operate ship stations in GMDSS are prescribed:-

(a) First Class Radio Electronic Certificate and Licence.

(b) Second Class Radio Electronic Certificate and Licence.

(c) General Operator's Certificate and Licence.

(d) Restricted Operator's Certificate and Licence.

(ii) The eligibility criteria for admission to the examinations are as follows :

The person shall be

- a citizen of India,

- above the age of eighteen years on the date specified from time to time by the government; and

- has passed all India senior secondary school certificate examination or an equivalent examination conducted by a recognised board/ University with Mathematics and Physics as optional subjects.

(iii) The list of proposed equipments for practical examinations is as follows:-

- VHF/HF/MF Synthesised Transreceiver.

- HF Telex.

- Satcom Standard 'A' Terminal.

- Satcom Standard 'C' Terminal.

- Digital Selective Calling (DSC) (MF DSC-2187.5 KHz, HF DSC) Distress Frequency, VHF DSC Channel 70.

- NAVTEX
- EPIRB
- EGC RECEIVER
- RADAR TRANSPONDER

(c) The scheme is likely to be implemented during 1996-97.

Delivery Post Offices in Assam

7023. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of new delivery post offices opened in Assam, district-wise, during the last three years, alongwith respective dates of their opening;

(b) how many delivery post offices are there in Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Guwahati at present, with details of areas/localities served, post office-wise;

(c) how many Speed Post centres are there in Assam, alongwith respective dates of opening;

(d) whether Government have decided to shift headquarters of Postmaster General, Assam region from Guwahati to Dibrugarh; if so, progress made in this respect, so far; and